Thousands say no to draft sign-up
Carter’s conscription drive in disarray

By Harry Ring

The opening of draft registration—intended by Washington as a show of strength—has turned into a stunning display of political weakness.

Thousands of antidraft protesters rallied and picketed across the country on the first day of registration. Often there were more antidraft youth outside the post offices than registrants inside.

In New York some 3,000 people, half of them women and nearly all of college and high school age, gathered in the sweltering heat at a street rally against conscription.

Diligent reporters could find some nineteen-year-olds who said they were glad to sign up. But there was no disguise to the fact that the great majority of those who registered did so only to avoid the threatened five-year jail term and $10,000 fine.

And just three days before registration was slated to begin, its legal authority was thrown into question when a federal circuit court ruled it unconstitutional.

Supreme Court Justice William Brennan issued a stay of the lower court order so that the sign-up could proceed.

But wide publicity was given to legal opinions that the government would have a hard time prosecuting anyone who failed to register.

The rulers of this country are fully determined to reinstitute military conscription in preparation for new Vietnam-style wars. But popular opposition runs so deep that their plans have been thrown into disarray.

‘Light turnout’

Registration Is Beginning Amid Controversy,” declared a July 21 New York Times headline. The front page story was accompanied by a photo of youth preparing placards for a demonstration that evening.

The New York Daily News emphasized that, according to a Selective Service spokesperson, the first day’s turnout was “exceptionally light.”

A July 22 Christian Science Monitor editorial entitled “Premature draft dodging” assailed the administration for what it saw as bungling.

“By instituting draft registration,” it declared, “President Carter said he intended to send a signal of national resolve to the Soviet Union. The Russians must be smiling.”

Far from a signal to anyone that American youth are ready to sacrifice, fight, and die for an alleged “national” interest, Carter’s campaign for draft registration has provoked dramatic proof of the deep-going opposition to new wars.

Iran & Afghanistan

Last winter, the government and big-business media proclaimed the end of the “Vietnam syndrome.” Playing up the small right-wing demonstrations that took place here after Iran’s seizure of the U.S. embassy, they pretended to see broad support for beefing up the U.S. military and pursuing more interventionist policies against revolutions abroad. American students and youth were especially gung-ho, the media assured.

Then when Soviet troops moved into Afghanistan to help fight CIA-backed rightist guerrillas, Carter thought the time was ripe. His State of the Union message in January called for draft registration and vowed readiness to use military force to protect U.S. “vital interests” in the Persian Gulf.

A January 25 editorial in the authoritative big-business voice, the New York Times, enthused:

Continued on page 4

NEW YORK, July 21—Three thousand rally against draft on first day of registration. Washington’s attempted show of strength has turned into demonstration of weakness.

500,000 celebrate first year of Nicaragua’s revolution

Grenada: educating for class-struggle unionism

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Grenadian union leader Vincent Noel, left, talks with Socialist Workers Party presidential candidate Andrew Pulley during Pulley’s fact-finding and solidarity tour of the Caribbean island.
Solidity with Cuba!

Secretary of State Edmund Muskie discussed U.S.-Cuba relations at a meeting of state and local government officials July 15. Diplomatic interests sections were opened up in the two countries three years ago, but further progress toward full diplomatic relations has been stalled and current relations are obviously tense.

What reason did Muskie cite for the impasse?

Cuba's grievances, he explained, center on the U.S. economic embargo against Cuba, on U.S. spy flights over Cuba, and on continued U.S. control over the naval base at Guantánamo.

Washington, on the other hand, views Cuba as "intervening in the affairs of countries around the globe, particularly in Africa, and is seeking to export its revolution in the Central American area."

A few comments about the two positions are in order.

Cuba's demands are eminently fair and reasonable. No country in the world would freely tolerate spy flights or the forcible occupation of a military base on its territory. The U.S. is violating Cuban sovereignty and should cease immediately.

As for the economic blockade, it is a form of blackmail to pressure the Cubans to change their revolutionary course. It is an act of aggression against Cuba—indeensible diplomatically in any state of normal relations, and indefensible morally under all circumstances. Its sole effect is to subject the people of Cuba to hardship and deprivation.

What about the U.S. demands?

It is, first of all, outrageous hypocrisy for the U.S.—the chief interventionist power in the world—to point the finger of accusation at Cuba. Let Washington instead pull out of its foreign military bases, stop arming the dictators of the world, and halt all CIA machinations abroad.

What does the alleged Cuban intervention in Africa consist of?

Cuba sent troops to help the government of Ethiopia fend off an invasion by the U.S.-backed racists of South Africa. The people of Angola, and Blacks throughout southern Africa, welcomed Cuba's resolute defense of their freedom struggle.

Cuba has also sent health workers, teachers, and construction workers to countries all over the world.

That's the kind of "intervention" that Washington cannot stomach.

And in Central America?

Cuba has sent teachers to Nicaragua to help in the literacy drive; doctors to help in the health campaigns; and technicians of all sorts to help rebuild the war-torn country. The aid has been generous beyond compare, while wealthy Washington has grudgingly promised a pittance in proportion to the lavish backing it gave to ousted dictator Somozas.

As for the charge of exporting revolution, Castro responded in a speech in Managua on July 19, celebrating the first anniversary of the Nicaraguan revolution.

"It is impossible to set fire to a people, to bring a tech of revolution. As one of you recently said, the best and most fundamental and decisive help you can give to the revolutionary movement is your example because people are like volcanoes. No one sets fire to them. They explode by themselves."

The Cuban revolution is a living example to the fighting people of El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras; and to the peoples everywhere who resist the tyrants armed by Washington.

What the U.S. rulers cannot stand, above all, is the inspiration Cuba gives to the peoples of the world who fight for freedom and justice. Including fighters for freedom and justice inside the United States.

The power of example is what enables Cuba to play such a big part in world politics.

That is why, as the July 26 anniversary of the Cuban revolution is being celebrated this year, we reaffirm our defense of the Cuban revolution and all that it stands for.

And we insist that Cuba's fair and just demands for normal relations be met: Halt U.S. spy flights over Cuba! Withdraw from Guantánamo! End the economic blockade!

Killers on the loose

• Chattanooga, Tennessee. Two Ku Klux Klansmen were acquitted and a third given a slap-on-the-wrist sentence and fine of $225 July 22 by an all-white jury for shooting and wounding four Black women.

• Greensboro, North Carolina. The prosecution permitted selection of an all-white jury for the trial of Klan and Nazi members responsible for killing five antiracist demonstrators.

• Miami, Florida. The federal government has still failed to bring indictments against the four cops who beat Black insurance executive Arthur McDuffie to death last December. The acquittal of the racist killers by a Tampa court sparked the May rebellion in the Black community.

The failure to prosecute—to the full extent of the law—those responsible only encourages further acts of racist violence.

It demonstrates that neither the courts, the Carter administration, nor state and local officials are trusted to stop the racists, whether they are wearing white sheets, brown shirts, or blue uniforms. Massive united protests on the part of Blacks, labor, and all supporters of civil rights are needed to force the government to bring to justice these racist killers.
What does Reagan stand for?

By Gus Horowitz

The Republican Party's nomination of Ronald Reagan, longtime darling of the party's right wing and its candidate for president and of George Bush, a former head of the CIA, as his running mate would ordinarily have evoked a touch of alarm among middle-of-the-road capitalist commentators. In basic views, after all, Reagan is much the same as Barry Goldwater, the 1964 nominee, who was treated as an unreliable extremist by most of the media.

This year, however, Reagan has been portrayed in respectful, even deferential tones.

One reason for the change is that Reagan is now favored to win the election. So prudent journalists and newsmen render him proportionate courtesies. It's all part of what Newsweek columnist Meg Greenfield called "talking Reagan seriously."

More important, though, is that Reagan's policies do accurately represent the best lines of his campaign today, while his campaign style—in contrast to Goldwater's—fits in with the general election. It's all part of what Reagan portrays as a decisive, yet prudent and flexible campaign style—in contrast to the cautious, and mostly unknown, Goldwater.

Reagan's policies are realist; his campaign rhetoric of national renewal and recovery will be made proportionate to the existing realities. And his policies are his campaign's best lines, and his campaign's best lines will be made proportionate to the existing realities.

The Republicans' real policies were spelled out more candidly in the platform, adopted early in the convention. It included the following planks:

• Taxes: An "across-the-board" tax cut, that is, a cut that would grant most benefit to the rich.
• Government spending: They favor "fiscal and monetary restraint" as regards social services, and an "imme

Heat wave: elderly poor die due to gov't neglect

By Martha Pettit

KANSAS CITY, Mo.—The heat wave that has held the central United States in its grip since late June is a life-and-death political issue.

Some 1,100 people have died so far. None of them have been rich. Most have been elderly. Many were already in poor health, and many are Blacks who are victims of discrimination.

Such natural disasters as floods and tornadoes affect the population more broadly—hitting homes and businesses. They may quickly qualify an area for federal disaster relief funds. But the deadly effects of the heat wave are more selective. They hit hardest at the old and poor—those the government cares least about.

Kansas City has been suffering record-breaking temperatures day after day. Often around 100 degrees. When the wind blows it feels like a wall of hot air hitting you.

A woman I know called me last night and we talked for about an hour. She is seventy-six years old, on Social Security, totally disabled, and has been a staunch socialist for fifty years. She supports the Socialist Workers campaign in any way she can.

She told me her story of trying to get her broken-down second-hand air conditioner fixed. The overworked mechanic who came out blew her last two fans when he was checking the unit, and left her with two fans, and $200 bills because she did not have the money to buy new fans. And he left without being able to repair the unit.

When I talked to her, she was making plans to leave her home—at the high risk of it being burglarized in her absence—to stay with a relative, if the unit was not fixed soon. She will not be able to stand the heat much longer.

Her story is being repeated dozens of times across a half dozen states.

The utility companies are making a killing. Electric bills are expected to double or triple for July. For the most indigent, they kindly tell us, some plans are being made so that their electricity will not be turned off if full payment cannot be made immediately.

They also inform us that our electric bills are going up even if no air conditioner has been run. The reason? Electricity costs more in peak periods.

The newspaper-billed headlines the other day that free fans were going to be distributed to the poor. At city or federal expense? No. They were to be donated by individuals, fire fighters were to be utilized to repair them, and the Red Cross would distribute them. Not a penny for this "charitable" project from the government. And fans don't really help that much. They mainly blow hot air around.

It's not just those of us in the city who are in trouble. Farmers may suffer a 10 percent loss of their corn crops. An editorial in the paper here said, well, farmers get federal disaster subsidies. Maybe a few operating on the margin may go under, but that's not so serious.

Except most small farmers are operating on the margin.

The newspapers are full of articles about heat stroke and heat exhaustion. They say it's normal to be irritable and even depressed. It is as normal to be mad as hell. Any government that gave two shakes about its people would find a way to protect each and every one of them from this disaster.
Draft protests hit post offices across land

By Suzanne Haig

In a mood of spirited defiance, women and men picketed and rallied against the draft at post offices and federal buildings across the country as Carter's registration program began July 21.

"Hell no, we won't go, we won't fight for Telcon," one picketer shouted at the federal building in Washington, D.C.

"We're in our generation to stand up and say, 'No!'"

"Employ me, don't draft me!"

"Are you willing to spill blood for oil?"

"One, two, three, four, no Vietnam in El Salvador!"

These were some of the chants resounding throughout the country. The actions had strong participation by women, sometimes 50 percent. And popular were such chants as "No draft, no war, ratify the ERA," "Up with ERA, down with the draft!"

Protesters noted that many who went into the post office to register said they were doing so only to avoid the penalties. Many opposed the draft and another war. Some joined the picketers or took leaflets.

In Albuquerque, New Mexico, many of the picketers were residents who were registering the picketline or took leaflets to pass out during the two weeks of registration. They eagerly took "register under protest" stickers to place on their registration forms. All areas reported widespread media coverage. Many reporters were sympathetic to the pickets. In Minneapolis, a high school student left by his school paper to cover the events, joined them.

In Washington, D.C., at a July 19 rally of 300, speakers included Suzanne Kelly, president of the Virginia Education Association and coordinator of Labor for Equal Rights Now; Vince Benson, president of the Brotherhood of Railway and Airline Clerks, Local 100; a representative of the Committee in Solidarity with El Salvador; and Leonor Cortes, from D.C. Nica, a Washington solidarity group with Nicaragua.

In New York City, 200 people picketed the main post office at noon on July 21. That evening, 3,000 demonstrated at Seventy-second Street and Broadway. Speakers included Barry Lyn, chair of the National Coalition Against the Draft (CARD); Kevin Lynch, District 65, United Auto Workers; Cora Weiss, peace activist; and others.

In Los Angeles, 200 and 150 picketed at the federal building on July 21. That evening, 10,000 demonstrated at Seventy-second Street and Broadway. Speakers included Nick Loza and his seventeen-year-old son Davy. It was the first time they had ever protested to a great movement.

Davy said, "I don't want to kill anyone."

In Kansas City, 200 rallied. Earl Graham, local vice-president of the National Association of Letter Carriers, was one of the speakers.

In Cleveland, 350 protested at the post office. Carpenters by looking at the marchers in solidarity. One carload of young Blacks stopped and shouted, "Eight on, $400 a month isn't worth it. No to the draft!"

In Portland, 600 marched and rallied on Saturday, July 19. On the way from the courthouse the marchers passed striking county workers. Strikers and marchers exchanged cheers of "Keep up the good work." The march broke out into the chant, "Give us jobs, not war!"

In Newark, a rally at Military Park grew from 100 to 150 when a demonstration of Blacks, protesting discrimination at Ideal Toy Company, joined the rally. Speakers from both protests chaired the platform.

In Detroit 200 picketed the main post office. One nineteen-year-old Black, William Drantles, asked if he would register, said, "No way! A draft will lead to war, not the draft; I'm staying right here with my little girl and my fiancé. Why should I go fight a war? There's no gain in it for me. Why should I go into someone else's country and blow out the brains of someone I've never met? It's just stupid."

He examined the form and decided not to fill it out. Pickets and rallies were also reported to the Militant from Minneapolis-St. Paul (400); Chicago (300); Philadelphia (300); Atlanta (200); Baltimore (150); Cincinnati (150); Winston-Salem, North Carolina; Birmingham, Alabama; Dallas, Texas; Morgantown, West Virginia; Newport News, Virginia; and Norfolk, Virginia.

...draft

Continued from front page

York Times, urged Congress to "move quickly to meet the President's request."

Sending the bill to Congress February 8, Carter declared, "Even in the nuclear age, we must be prepared for conventional conflict."

In an editorial February 10, the Times spelled out the basic proposition.

"At the moment, we can see only one powerful reason to ask young Americans to register for an eventual military draft: to demonstrate that the public, and especially the generation that grew up with Vietnam, is once more ready to contemplate conscription for military action abroad."

The only problem being, it wasn't.

Within hours after Carter proposed registration, protests erupted on major campuses. Negative reaction was so swift and sharp that he felt compelled to moderate his rhetoric.

On February 15 he gathered student leaders at the White House and tried to persuade them there had been a "gross overreaction," that no draft was in sight, and that registration was "symbolic."

The students were unconvinced. Protests continued to grow, culminating in a march and rally of some 20,000 in Washington on March 22.

Although largely student based, those actions spoke for the sentiments of millions of workers. Opposition to the draft was heard even in top circles of the AFL-CIO.

The threat of conscription actually spread debate over U.S. foreign policy into homes, schools, and factories throughout the country. Slogans linking the draft to the interests of the giant oil companies showed how consciousness was developing about the class nature of Washington's actions.

And at the widespread July 21 pickets, police had evidently been instructed to be on best behavior. In New York, they stood and watched benignly as protesters marched right through the main post office.

What must be understood, however, is that the rulers have not retreated one inch on their basic goal of militarizing U.S. society.

They are confronted with anticapitalist rebellions in all parts of the world and, if their system is to survive, they must be able to put U.S. troops in massive numbers directly into battle.

Their aim was well described by a speaker at the New York anti-conscription rally. Cora Weiss, who worked actively in the movement against the Vietnam War, alluded to the suffocating heat and declared, "If you think it's hot here, try El Salvador in September or the Iranian desert in October."

That's still what they have in mind for American youth. But the imperialism is not lashing out not from great strength but from weakness.

They have been dealt some jolting blows abroad this past year—from Iran to Nicaragua to Grenada. And they're now suffering some serious blows here at home.

This gives the antiwar forces the time and the opportunity to build their movement for the battles to come.
By Suzanne Haig

A big legal question mark hangs over Carter's draft registration plan.

A three-judge federal circuit court in Philadelphia has voted the Selective Service Act unconstitutional for excluding women. The ruling was based on a nine-year-old Vietnam-era suit filed on behalf of four men then eligible for the draft.

The suit, Goldberg v. Rosker, contended that excluding women, half of the draft-age population, increased the chances for excluding women.

The Justice Department says it will appeal the decision to the Supreme Court, which probably won't hear the case before October.

Antidraft fighters should take a close look at this case. Will it help stop the draft? Is it in the interests of women or men?

The ruling is not antidraft but pro-defenses of individual rights are infringed in a manner to meet the defense needs of the nation.

The court ruled.

A three-judge federal circuit court in Washington. They approvingly noted that Congress, however, in approving his registration request, declined to include women. The administration.

A big legal question mark now hangs over Carter's draft registration plan.

The ruling is not antidraft but pro-defense needs. Congress has to build the movement needs to be built. Reiterating and mobilizing.

The top leadership of the National Black Lung Association says Bill Worthington, a disabled veteran and president of the Black Lung Association.

The rally proposal was unanimously adopted by a July 19 planning meeting attended by more than eighty working miners, black lung victims, and activists. They came from Kentucky, Virginia, Arkansas, Indiana, New York, and Illinois as well as West Virginia.

At a news conference after the meeting, Lee Smith, president of the Southern Political Action Committee (Compac) at Eastern Coal's Federal No. 2 mine, called for "all young miners to attend the rally.

Also on hand was Crystal Lee Sutton, whose husband, Morris, Pennsylvania. The protest planning meeting.

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By Diane Wang

ST. GEORGE'S, Grenada—The house on a hilltop overlooking this city once belonged to a minister in the corrupt Gairy regime. Now thirty-two trade unionists, seventeen of them women, eat on folding chairs in what was once the living room.

Posters proclaim solidarity with international struggles; another publicizes a women's conference. One handmade sign urges, "Youth man—Forward on and take your revolution ary stand."

This was the final session and commencement ceremony of a week-long seminar cosponsored by the Bank and General Workers Union (GOWU) and the Commercial and Industrial Workers Union (CIWU).

The dome of the former Gairy official is today a center of Youth for Reconciliation, and it is used for gatherings and conferences of many other groups.

Speaking at the July 11 commencement were several of Grenada's trade union leaders: Anslem DeBourg, CIWU vice-president; Danny Roberts, general secretary of the GOWU; Vincent Noel, general secretary of the CIWU and of the Grenada Trade Union Council; and Vincent Noel. The seminars are important for training a new generation of labor leaders.

The seminars are important, too, for revolutionary Grenada as a whole. On the way to the session, Anslem DeBourg told Pulley, "We teach about why it is important for people to participate in their unions. This makes it harder for the reactionaries, because workers get used to democratic procedures."

Pulley commented following the ceremony, "That's what we need: telling people what has been done here." Pulley will tell seminar audiences this fall what he has seen in Grenada, the achievements in education, health—and in the labor movement.

This was the tenth seminar of its kind, each lasting a week. Since the seminars were negotiated into contracts, bosses have to pay workers for the time spent studying unionism.

Under the former regime, unions were brought in by the police. The dictator Gairy tolerated the CIWU and the GOWU, which had a membership of 7,000 and 1,000, respectively.

"Wider focus"

John Ventour, who had conducted the seminar, explained in his speech, "When we educate workers in this manner, we expect that when you go back to your workplaces you'll see things in a wider focus."

By teaching workers to see their struggles in a "wider focus," the seminars help strengthen the revolution and the campaigns of the new government.

"Workers' Voice," published for trade unionists by the NRMU, tells the workers how to increase the bosses' profits but at raising the living standards of the masses, getting another school or clinic for workers, another industry opened to provide new jobs and funds for the country.

"Of course," Pulley pointed out, "this government's idea of a 'better industrial climate' is one that advances the interests of the workers. The fight for increased production here is not aimed at raising the bosses' profits but at raising the living standards of the masses.

"Where does the money come from to pay workers employed by the government? "Where does the money come from to pay goods from other countries? "Discuss these questions with your co-workers and you'll get the next issue of Workers' Voice to hear what we have to say."

Political action

In a country where the governing party's slogan is, "Let those who hold the reins, the unions' political action is also the subject of a lively discussion. That political activism to be based on working-class independency was a basic lesson of the seminars.

DeBourg reminded the unionists, "Workers feel they cannot do without a capitalist. But what have we to understand is, who are the capitalists? Where does capital come from? Capital can only come from labor. And if you

Pulley's greetings to Grenada union seminar

John Ventour, general secretary of the Grenada Trade Union Council and seminar leader, asked Socialist Workers Party candidate for president of the United States and a member of Railroad Workers Local 1066, had been invited to attend the session and give greetings. Pulley is visiting Grenada to see the progress made since the revolution on this island in March 1979.

"The most important weapon Grenada has to defend itself is the people in the United States," Pulley told Ventour.

"Workers solidarity is urged on us to do better, to do more. I think it is fitting to have the SWP here."

"Workers" is the slogan on CIWU T-shirts. "How can we achieve that unity?"

DeBourg asked the workers on the picket line or workers we pass on the street are only trying to go about their own business, not to keep their own heads above water, trying to seek only their own interests.

Workers' Voice also pursued the question, "A few workers are saying that they do not care what happens to other workers. Others say that they do not care about farmers, that farmers are not important to them. Yet others feel that agricultural workers are not important to dock workers, commercial workers, bank workers, or other workers. . . ."

Pulley told the seminar, "Workers solidarity is urged on us to do better, to do more. I think it is fitting to have the SWP here. The American working class is not doing enough. . . ."

Cuba social services and other needs of the people are receiving increased financial commitment, and real forward motion is being achieved. And in Nicaragua the same thing.

So, as the American people learn more about what is really happening here, especially the Black community. . . ."

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ask yourself who labors, isn't it the workers? So is it the workers who need the capitalists or the capitalists who need the workers?"

Opponents of the Grenadian revolution have said they were not involved in government, then who should be, the employers, the workers? It's a question that has been raised in Grenada and elsewhere. The capitalists or the workers? The workers, and to that end, the union movement has been active in organizing and mobilizing workers.

Representatives should not be in government, then who should be, the employers, the workers? The capitalists or the workers? The workers, and to that end, the union movement has been active in organizing and mobilizing workers.

The seminar lessons on political action extended to international questions as well. Most of the students had contact with the Cubans. That afternoon the class had seen a film about the CIA.

"The CIA exposes have especially angered the bosses. Workers' Voice scolded the electrical company manager: 'Rodney, why did you not want electrical workers to see the CIA film? You fraud workers will see the light!'"

"We must use it in our own interests. That's the present mission is now, how it is being carried for out these seminars. And definitely the lesser one, to help with the technical tasks of trade unionism, to help comrades identify and solve problems, how to negotiate and bargain, and so on. That's what we call technical tasks. That's about the operation of trade unions in general.

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"John Ventour stressed that the seminars, like every other gain since the revolution, need to be defended. 'The capitalists will resist holding further seminars. We have to struggle for it. We can't get it depends on us.'"

"The unionists sounded ready for that fight. The one talked about the lessons they had learned with co-workers, and about the need for more classes.

"The bosses say the trade unions are brainwashing the workers," Matilda Chase, a CWU member from the Buy-Rite supermarket said the seminar. "For really the unions are educating us."

--From Intercontinental Press/Inprecor

"For Every One of Us They Kill, Ten Thousand More Will Come Forward!"

A speech by Grenada's Prime Minister Maurice Bishop:

This is a tape of Maurice Bishop's fifty-minute radio address to the nation on the night of the June 19, 1980, terrorist bombing. The device intended to kill top leaders of the Grenadian revolution, exploded at a bakery, killing two young children, and injuring dozens of other participants. $4.00

--From Intercontinental Press/Inprecor

The following is the speech by Grenadian trade-union and New Jewel Movement leader Vincent Noel to the final session of a week-long union seminar.

"As you know, we in the progressive labor movement have been trying for some time now to do what we can to improve the consciousness of the entire working class of the country."

"This ninth and tenth seminar is the first time in the history of the trade-union movement in this country that any unions whatsoever, or any group of unions, are coming together to have as much as ten seminars—reporting, planning, size, because some of them have not been very big. And this has taken place in under one year."

"It is an achievement of which we in the progressive leadership of both unions are very proud. And I'm sure you're judging from the response that we have received from all the previous seminars, and from what you yourselves have said here this afternoon in another and more of these seminars, that all of this is what you and your comrades are doing."

"As you have learned from the period here over the last five days, we have been able to[...]

--From Intercontinental Press/Inprecor

"The other is much more fundamental to the survival of the working class do the workers' business. And that is why we try to raise and improve, awaken and then raise the class consciousness of the working class. This is what we see as the second reason, fundamental and very important."

"We have done this by trying to show you, first of all, the development of human society itself."

"There is a trend of thought being thrown around in Grenada and elsewhere which is to be disastrous for the working class. We capitalists, we have always had the poor, that we've always had the mass. We showed you why it has been so, but doesn't have to be so."

"We have shown you the origin of the class struggle, why it is there, how it is used by the capitalists, and how we as workers, as progressive workers, need to use it in our own interests.

"There are some who tell us that the working class should have nothing to do with whether or not we have full employment, what the cost of living is, whether or not we have education, whether or not we have health services, whether or not we have corruption in government, whether or not we have brutality, and all the other ills. There are some who tell you that is not the workers' business."

"What we are saying here is that every single thing that affects the working class is the workers' business, because workers form the majority of society, and in fact they support the status quo through their labor. It is fundamentally anything that affects the working class is the workers' business."

"Comrades brothers and sisters, at this time, we face a very difficult period in our history. We have to decide ourselves what the future will be.

"And there's no other appropriate group decide what the future will be than, of course, the working class. Because we are the ones who are working; we are the ones who are producing; we are the ones who are keeping the economy afloat, keeping the country moving."

"And therefore in what is done, we have to play a leading role in guiding and shaping it. We have to make sure that what is done is always in our interest as workers."

--From Intercontinental Press/Inprecor

VINCENT NOEL
Militant/Diane Weng

Grenada and its revolution

Grenada, a small island of 100,000 people, is a scene of great revolutionary developments whose effects are being felt throughout the Caribbean. In March 1979 the dictatorial regime of Eric Gairy was overthrown by the New Jewel Movement. The new government launched efforts to provide jobs, raise wages, wipe out illiteracy, and improve health care. Most important, it has organized and mobilized the workers and small farmers to fight for their own interests.

Although Grenada is farther from the United States than most Caribbean countries, its revolution is likely to have special significance here. The Grenadians are both Black and English-speaking. Thousands of Grenadians live and work in the United States.

Washington has been hostile to the Grenadian revolution from the beginning. The Caricom administration threatened Grenada for establishing relations with Cuba, and has provided a haven for Gairy to organize right-wing, mercenary forces to invade the island.

Andrew Pulley, Socialist Workers Party candidate for president, conducted a week-long fact-finding and solidarity tour of Grenada in July. He was accompanied by Steve Clark, managing editor of Intercontinental Press, and Diane Weng, steelworker and SWP member.

This week the Militant continues publication of their report.

"Come see for yourself"

Part of the Carter administration's drive against the Grenadian revolution has been to sabotage tourism, a key source of income for the island.

The Grenadians' response is, "Come see for yourself!"

U.S. workers who visit will find that a trip to Grenada offers a fascinating picture of a revolution in progress. The Grennadians are eager to talk with visitors about their struggle for freedom from exploitation and oppression.

In addition, Grenada is widely acknowledged to be one of the most beautiful islands in the Caribbean. Visitors can enjoy swimming, fishing, skin-diving, or just soaking up sunshine on pristine beaches. The noise and pollution of U.S. capitalism are far away.

For more information, contact the Permanent Mission of Grenada, 141 East Forty-fourth Street, Room 900, New York, New York 10017.
New land reform law decreed

Half million celebrate Nicaragua's revolution

By Fred Murphy and Mary-Alice Waters

Managua (April 11) Before the sun rose on July 19, revolutionary songs and slogans were ringing out from one end to the other.

Tens of thousands of Nicaraguans, having traveled throughout the night from all parts of the country, were arriving in trucks and buses for the celebration of the revolution's first anniversary.

By 7 a.m. marchers were pouring into the huge July 19 Plaza, constructed especially for the occasion. Contingents from Managua's neighborhoods, all organized by their Sandinista Defense Committees (CDS), joined workers from other major cities and peasants from remote villages.

Waving thousands of red and black flags and homemade placards and banners, the multitude gathered behind the disciplined ranks of militia, army, and police units.

By the time the rally got under way at 10 a.m. more than half a million people were assembled in the plaza—some 30 percent of Nicaragua's population.

It was the largest demonstration in the country's history, a striking reaffirmation of the support and confidence that the Sandinista National Liberation Front (FSLN) enjoys.

'We will never stop'

Around the edges of the plaza were freshly painted billboards bearing the revolution's most characteristic slogans, including a quote from General Augusto César Sandino—"Only the workers and the peasants will go all the way."

A block-long banner carried the words of martyred Sandinista intellectual Ricardo Morales Arizve—"After taking the first step we will never again stop walking."

Following musical presentations and a vibrant performance by a Black dance troupe from the Caribbean port city of Bluefields, army Commander-in-Chief Humberto Ortega and militia Commander Eden Pastora reviewed the assembled troops.

The crowd chanted, "One single army," a slogan that sums up the readiness of the Nicaraguan people to defend their revolution.

An international event

The rally, chaired by FSLN leader Julio Lopez, began with the introductions of the many international delegations in attendance. Three heads of state were present: President Fidel Castro of Cuba, Prime Minister Maurice Bishop of Grenada, and Prime Minister George Price of Belize.

Among the government delegations were those from Vietnam, Kampuchea, North Korea, the Soviet Union, and most Eastern European states; from Algeria and other African states; from Mexico, Honduras, El Salvador, and Panama; from Iraq and South Yemen; and from the United States.

Former Venezuelan president Carlos Andres Perez was present, as were Puerto Rican patriots Irving Flores and Lolita Lebron, and a delegation from the Socialists of International, that included Spanish SP leader Felipe Gonzalez.

Sandinist leader Yasmin Arafa had planned to attend the celebration, but was delayed by transportation difficulties and arrived in Nicaragua only after the rally had ended. But solidarity with the Palestinian struggle was evident on banners and T-shirts worn by many Sandinista supporters.

Other liberation groups included the Polisario Front, which is fighting Moroccan attempts to annex the Sahara, and FRETILIN, which is battling the Indonesian takeover of East Timor.

By far the biggest applause was reserved for the representatives from El Salvador's Revolutionary Democratic Front (FDR), who were greeted by repeated chants of "Nicaragua Won, El Salvador Will Win."

Example of Cuba

Grenadian revolutionary leader Bishop led off the speakers list. July, he said, is an historic month for the people of Latin America, not only because of the Nicaraguan revolution, but also because the opening battle of the Cuban revolution, the attack on the Moncada barracks, took place on July 26, 1953.

"Who can doubt," Bishop said, "that if there was no Moncada movement and if there was no Cuban revolution, the attack on the Moncada barracks, took place on July 26, 1953."

"We can never teach the Sandinistas what to do," Castro said, implicitly responding to Perez, "but we will never try to tell the Sandinistas what they should do or offer you fortuitous advice. We are ready to give you all of our support, all the solidarity of our people without conditions and without advice.

"We do not come here to teach or to influence. We came humbly to learn and to be influenced. We are sure that the Sandinista revolution will need as a great deal and that the Sandinista revolution will have a great influence on us. Just as we are also certain that your example will extraordinarily influence the rest of Latin America."

"One might claim," Castro noted, "that we have come to Nicaragua to try to set fire to Central America or to Latin America."

"It is impossible to set fire to a people, to bring a torch of revolution. As one of you recently said, the best and most fundamental and decisive help you can give to the revolutionary movement is your example, because people are like volcanoes. No one sets fire to them. They explode by themselves. And Central America and the Andean mountain range are volcanoes."
Despite the wealth of the United States, most people here find decent medical care scarce by Medical and drug fees are an outrage. Insurance plans provide coverage that generally ranges from fair to worse than poor.

Those not covered by insurance can have the savings of a lifetime wiped out by a single major illness.

Those on welfare are subjected to the indignities of clinics and the abuses of municipal hospitals. And even these are being shut down across the country in the current round of budget cutbacks.

Medical care doesn't have to be that way. A socialized health plan could change the situation virtually over night.

Free medical care for all? Wouldn't the cost be so astronomical as to make it impossible?

Only if the plan continued to assure the superprofits of the medical industry.

Revolutionary Cuba has a system of socialized medicine. It provides free medical care and extensive preventive care to all its citizens. And it is able to do so despite the economic hardships imposed on the country by decades of imperialist exploitation.

Cuba can do so because it has taken the profit exterminating out of medicine. Doctors don't enrich themselves off the misery of the sick. There is no profit-gouging drug industry, no lavishly paid hospital administrators.

Yet the service provided is impressive.

That's not simply the way Cubans see it. In fact, Harry Joli, who was a medical official for the Los Angeles Times. The following are major excerpts from a report by Nelson that appeared in the June 15 Los Angeles Times.

By Harry Nelson

HAVANA—Twenty-one years after revolution drove half of its medical manpower into exile, Cuba today has reached a level of health that exceeds that of nearly every other country in Latin America.

And whatever the problems of Fidel Castro's Socialist regime—more than 100,000 people have died in recent months—Cuba has shown other developing nations that enormous gains can be made in a relatively short period of time when top priority is given to health care.

A recent visit to the island revealed that unlike virtually all of the other 100 or so developing nations, Cuba has carefully planned and executed an approach to health problems that it believes reaches every one of its 9.8 million residents.

As a result, its mortality rates have dropped sharply, especially among infants and children, and great progress has been made in reducing the incidence of malaria, tuberculosis, polio, typhoid fever, typhus, venereal diseases and a number of other infectious and parasitic diseases that incapacitate large numbers of people in other developing countries.

Per 1,000 population; in 1957 the number of infant deaths per 1,000 was 28.1. In 1975, it was 11.8. In 1976, the rate exceeded 100 cases per 100,000.

Low infant mortality

Although Cuba's mortality rate for infants under 1 year old still exceeds that of the United States, the island country has made great advances.

Today there are 18.3 deaths per 1,000 live births in Cuba; according to Cuban officials, the rate before the revolution was about 70 per 1,000. (Today in the United States there are 14 deaths per 1,000 live births.)

Two major reasons for this decline in infant mortality in Cuba are improved sanitation and better water, both of which have reduced deaths from diarrheal diseases that plague nearly all developing nations.

In 1962, three years after the Cuban revolution, the rate of children deaths caused by diarrhea was 50 per 1,000 live births. By 1977, Cuban health officials reported, that rate had plummeted to 1.6 deaths per 1,000 live births.

Better nutrition, which enhances immunity, is also cited as a reason for the decline in children's deaths from diarrheal diseases.

"A child with diarrhea doesn't die here because he is well nourished," Dr. Daniel Joli, the World Health Organization's representative in Cuba, said.

Joli, an Argentine physician, said that biostatisticians from the World Health Organization, which is based in Geneva, had verified the Cuban statistics.

"There is no question that Cuba has the best health statistics in Latin America," Joli said.

Lower birth rate

Coincidentally, at the same time that it has been lowering infant mortality rates, Cuba has also been lowering its birthrate. In a region that has a higher birthrate than either Asia or Africa, Cuba now has the lowest birthrate. In 1978 there were 15.3 live births per 1,000 population; in 1957 the number of live births per 1,000,000 population was 28.1. In 1975, it was 21.8, and in 1976, it was 21.6.

Cuban officials said the decline in the birthrate has been accomplished without an official government program. Instead, according to Dr. Ces­ tino Alvarez Lejonchere, a gynecologist responsible for infant protection and women's equality, the birthrate has dropped as the educational level of the population increased and as the Cubans improved their ability to solve their health and social problems.

Another factor is the increasing number of Cuban women who work full time.

The key to Cuba's success in health care, according to Cuban officials and to U.S. public health authorities who have visited the island, is the way the government has integrated health care into the nation's overall development.

That means not only making sure everyone has equal access to care and that doctors, hospitals and other resources are available, but also improving nutrition, housing, water, sewage disposal, reading levels and jobs.

The island's national health program does not appear to have been stunted by its periodic agricultural and economic crises.

Government role

The main difference between the Cuban and U.S. health systems is the government's role in planning health care and delivery of medical services in Cuba. In the United States, the location and magnitude of medical resources such as doctors, nurses and hospi­tals is largely determined by the professions themselves, based on market demand.

From an American's viewpoint, Cuba's health and medical care system may have the impersonal aura of a large clinic, but its availability to everyone and its demonstrated success in recent years cannot be denied.

The Cuban government is obviously proud of its health care system and for that reason, perhaps, was extremely cooperative in allowing Times reporter its various facilities.

A World Bank report issued this year showed the contrast of Cuba's health care system to those of other develop­ ing countries.

The overwhelming majority of people in the developing countries, espe­ cially the poor, have no access to the services that are offered, the report says. The efficiency of those services is generally poor and there is little atten­tion paid to prevention.

But in Cuba the goal has been to develop a single, integrated preventive and curative system whose services are free to everybody.

An urban dweller who becomes ill in Cuba goes first to an outpatient clinic—called a polyclinic—that is staffed primarily with specialists in internal medicine, obstetrics and pedi­ atrics. Polyclinics handle about 70% of all medical needs. They are open about 12 hours a day—from 8 a.m. till 8 p.m. —and are such designed to care for about 3,000 people, although some serve more people. If the patient needs to be hospital­ ized—or if the ailment happens when the polyclinics are closed—he is re­ ferred to a hospital or hospital emer­ gency room.

Rural hospitals

Of Cuba's 255 hospitals, 44 are in Havana, 56 are in the countryside— often surrounded by sugar cane fields—and the rest are in other provin­ cial cities and towns. Except for the rural hospitals, each has between 300 and 600 beds.

In the countryside, the 56 hospitals serve primarily the same function as the polyclinics in addition to having beds for non-surgical cases. Before construction of a road system in rural areas, rural hospitals did surgery. Such patients are now referred to the local provincial hospital.

Patients who require heart surgery, Continued on next page
...health care

Continued from preceding page

neurological surgery, kidney transplant, cancer treatment or certain other specialized care are sent to one of the 22 regionalized specialty hospitals.

The provincial hospital at Cienfuegos, a principal port city about 140 miles southeast of Havana, is the pride of the Cuban hospital system. It is only 14 months old and cost $26.4 million to build. It has 624 beds, 19 operating rooms, an eight-bed intensive care unit, a kidney dialysis unit, physicians of all specialties—including psychiatry—and an outpatient clinic that sees 500 patients a day. It is also a teaching hospital. Although Cienfuegos is in a major agricultural area (sugar cane) there is extreme use of pesticides, Dr. Rafael Fernandez, the hospital's deputy director, said there have been no cases of pesticide poisoning of workers because care is taken to protect the workers.

"In the 12 years that I have been in this area I have not seen a single case," he said.

The hospital has recently installed elaborate X-ray equipment of the latest design manufactured by a British company. But much of the accessory equipment has been made in Japan, Sweden, and East Germany.

Fernandez admitted that there is a serious problem in trying to mesh complex pieces of equipment into a single system when each has a different origin.

Medical blockade

"The American blockade on Cuba causes many problems for the hospital," he said, "but we learn to live with them."

A number of physicians interviewed during a 10-day stay in Cuba said the blockade often delays medical supplies, medications and drugs.

Professor Zoilo Marinello, director of the Cuban Cancer Institute in Havana, a surgeon who trained at Memorial Hospital in New York in the 1940s, displayed a plastic material for breast prostheses made in Santa Barbara. "We must buy it from Spain," he said.

"The same thing with anti-cancer drugs, medical books and journals. We eventually get all of these things but we must use many different ways to get them."

An hour's drive from Cienfuegos, Dr. Francisco Inquieito and Dr. Adelaides Rodriguez run a 12-bed rural hospital in the village of San Bias.

San Bias is a mountainous farming community that only recently was connected with Cienfuegos by road. Before the road, horseback was the only way to get to the big city.

About 10,000 people live in the surrounding mountain valleys, which belong to the rural hospitals trust. According to Inquieito, more than 90% of the local children have been vaccinated against the common infectious diseases.

Mass organizations

"If they don't show up for shots, the mass organizations go to their homes and give them shots," the physician said.

So-called mass organizations are encountered all over Cuba. The three leading ones are the Committee for the Defense of the Revolution, the National Association of Small Farmers, and the Federation of Cuban Women.

These volunteer organizations perform all sorts of social functions, one of which is to form "sanitary brigades" in each community. In San Bias and in the nine small settlements in the area, sanitary brigades dispense the Sabin oral polio vaccine, give lectures on where to get vaccinations, de population surveys and get in touch with people who do not show up at the rural hospital for doctor appointments.

The hospital's annual budget is only $151,800, including the salaries for the two physicians, a dentist (who is Inquieito's wife), six nurses, a clinical laboratory technician and 14 others.

The drug bill—$96,000—is the largest single item. Drugs in Cuba are free to patients in the rural area but not in the cities unless the patient is hospitalized.

Dental care

Dr. Eloisa Espinosa, chief of the Provincial Department of Dentistry in Cienfuegos, says that all children between the ages of 6 and 12 years see a dentist at least once a year. She admits that the number of cavities for children up to 14 years is 2.5, which is considered low.

"In Cuba, she said, has adopted a dental program similar to New Zealand's, which shows that all children are seen by a dentist at least once a year. She admits that the number of cavities for children up to 14 years is 2.5, which is considered low.

"In the rural area, the health services are free to patients in the cities unless the patient is hospitalized.

Dental care

Dr. Eloisa Espinosa, chief of the Provincial Department of Dentistry in Cienfuegos, says that all children between the ages of 6 and 12 years see a dentist at least once a year. She admits that the number of cavities for children up to 14 years is 2.5, which is considered low.

Physicians, university professors, dentists, and engineers in Cuba all make about the same amount of mo-

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<th>Latin American health and nutrition indexes</th>
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<th>Deaths from Malaria (cases)</th>
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*Cases of workers returning from abroad. Numbers are not presented.

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*Data from memory. (Data from international health and food indexes, as reprinted in June 22 English-language weekly Granma.)

Before revolution, disease-ridden slums Panama, let, were common in Cuba, housing and community facilities, center, reducing illness. Cuban farm workers, exposed to dangerous pesticides as in stries. Why some (The following are major excerpts from an article that appeared in the July 16 Miami Herald.)

By Dan Williams

The American dream of their countrymen and 90 miles of open sea to get here, some Cuban refugees want to return to the land and settle. "I just can't adapt myself to this system," said Andre Serge Alvaraz, a plump blue-eyed teacher from Havana. "In Cuba, you don't have to pay for electricity, they don't show up for shots. I see the inflation here, taxes. You buy a car and you have to pay insurance for it. Everyone works all the time, there's no moment even to read the newspaper," he said.

Alvaraz, 31, served as a spokesperson for a group of six men living under the end zone of the Orange Bowl who say they wish they hadn't joined 116,000 in a three-year course to fill caviar and clean and pull teeth. (A similar training program attempted a few years ago in Los Angeles at the University of Southern California) caused the dental profession to force the dental school dean's resignation.

Physicians, university professors, dentists, and engineers in Cuba all make about the same amount of mo-

![10](image-url)
The medical training emphasis in Cuba is on specialists (internists, obstetricians, pediatricians) to give primary care, rather than on family practitioners, as is now the case in the United States. The Cuban Ministry of Public Health believes it is essential to train doctors who are capable of practicing either in specialized hospitals or in outpatient clinics in the city or country.

After graduation, all physicians must spend three years in rural hospitals and clinics, which is how Cuba assures a continuous supply of doctors for remote areas. According to Dr. Fernando Llerdo, dean of the Institute of Basic and Clinical Studies in Havana, it was common before the revolution for a new graduate never to have worked in a hospital.

Special training
A half-hour drive inland from Havana is a novel health facility called the Institute for Health Development. It was once a 1,200-bed tuberculosis hospital, but its main structure now houses economists, biostatisticians and various kinds of technicians whose chief job is to do research.

Their research is not biological, but rather is directed at finding ways to improve the manner in which health care is delivered to the people. Their function is to teach health administration.

We educate to change the already established system," Prof. Mario Escalona said in an interview. "We teach people who will become the leaders of health administration in their country.

Besides Cubans, the health administration class currently has five students from each of Mexico and Spain and one each from Costa Rica, Venezuela, Colombia, Ecuador, Uruguay and Mozambique. Escalona said there may be an American student soon.

Dr. Ordonez offered an example of the kind of change triggered by the institute's research:

Until recently, he said, doctors working in polyclinics were not sufficiently oriented to the psychosocial needs of the patients. They were overspecialized and too concerned with the diagnostic and curtative aspects of medicine.

The new approach is what Ordonez called "the social conception of medicine." It requires doctors to learn how to handle psychosomatic patients.

In line with Socialist thought, it stresses the social causes of patients' problems—poor housing, discrimination and exploitation. (Cuban officials define holistic medicine as taking in the whole environment and not just what doctors do.)

"If our students spend part of their time working as nurses or sanitarians, according to Ordonez, in order to understand the people, they precisely learn to live in their daily lives."

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Protest at Orange Bowl
MIAMI—A police SWAT team was brought in July 20 to put down "disorderly conduct" protests that might be moved to a military setting to make way for the 1989 August exhibition football game. When cops tried to arrest one of the demonstrators, a scuffle broke out.

The cop in charge of the operation said his team had used force "to show them they are guests in this country... We had the SWAT team fully equipped for the disturbances at Liberty City."
Cuba’s top runner on sports and politics

“When we made our revolution, sports became a right”

By Harry Ring

Despite Castro’s swift, athletes from most countries will participate in this summer’s Moscow Olympics. Among them will be Cuba’s Alberto Juantorena, one of the world’s greatest runners.

In the 1976 Olympics, Juantorena did something no other athlete had ever accomplished. He won both the 400-meter and 800-meter races, turning a ying world record in the 800.

“The country where public means ‘ours.’ In

Sports were the exclusive preserve of the rich and were dominated by what Marx, he’s told, was a private property in a country where public means ‘ours.’ In

“Racism and professionalism dominate the sports scene. The athletes in our country have a talent for sports and want to contribute something by working in sports with others. These councils plus our voluntary sports activists are the backbone of sports in Cuba.”

All major sports

The program is sweeping in scope, embracing every major international sport.

With INDER coordinating their efforts, thousands of Cubans manage or coach baseball and basketball teams and track clubs in their neighborhoods or workplaces.

“So far we have about 1.6 million people between the ages of ten and forty participate in sports. Before the revolution it was only 25,000. But not忘了 that Cuba has a population of 10 million, he adds, “You can see how far we must yet go.”

Comment: “If indeed Cuba has a long way to go... then”

ruins estimates that about 1.6 million people have a talent for sports and want to contribute something by working in sports with others. These councils plus our voluntary sports activists are the backbone of sports in Cuba.”

In line with this task, we have created Voluntary Sports Councils, workplaces—schools all over. These councils are composed of people who have a talent for sports and want to contribute something by working in sports with others. These councils plus our voluntary sports activists are the backbone of sports in Cuba.”

Elaborating on this, Juantorena says, “The capitalists don’t have the support of their government or the social-economic system. We do, every time, often Fidel comes to the airport (to greet teams that have traveled) and says, ‘Very good. Congratulations. Continue fighting for the Cuban people, for socialism. This is the victory.”

Discussing his own rigorous training schedule, Juantorena talks about the importance of his relationship with his coach.

Goodman adds, “We talk about how in the United States the trust between coach and athlete is sometimes distorted by the demands of a system which push a coach to get more out of an athlete than might otherwise be healthy.”

Belafonte, in Cuba, urges an end to blockade

In June, Harry Belafonte, the noted performer, had singing engagements in Cuba and in the country of his birth, Jamaica.

While in Cuba, he was interviewed by English-speaking Havana paper, Granma.

In the interview, which was retransmitted for the June 22 English-language issue of Granma, he said, “There is the exchange of Cuban and U.S. performers should help pave the way for normalization of relations between the two countries.

“I want to be part of that,” Belafonte said, “I firmly believe the blockade should be lifted.”

Belafonte described how his experiences with racism in the U.S. theater, and society generally, had radicalized his thinking.

He said that in 1948, he supported Henry Wallace on the Progressive Party ticket and in the McCarthy hearings, because he had come from the black-listed entertainers.

During that time, he said, as well during the civil rights and antiracial movements of the 1960s, he came to see the world character of the liberation fight.

He added that through Cuban friends he had become familiar with the revolutionary struggle in Cuba before its triumph in 1959.

“Cuba’s victory made me very happy,” he said, “because I admire Fidel so much. He came to the United States and extended a friendly hand to us.”

“He went to Harlem, to the universities, and he gave some marvelous speeches. The people gave him an enthusiastic, joyful welcome and sometimes they were farmers, sometimes they were soldiers, sometimes they were workers, sometimes they were in the street. It was very difficult—employment. Horrible.”

Belafonte continued, “As he talks about his family and their plight before the Cuban revolution, Alberto’s face is gripped with a look of sadness and resolve that lets you know he intends to do all he can to prevent a return to the realm of great poverty and little promise. Without the revolution, I would not be a runner,” he notes pointedly.

And perhaps this is why he volunteers to work in the sugar mills in the factories of Havana or in the fields of its suburbs.

Sports are a right

“Take Cuba as an example. When the social relations were established, when we made our revolution, sports became a right. We began to produce national champions and contributed something by working in the government. We are the product of the socialization of sports.”

Can you mix sports and politics? asks Goodman.

“Sports and politics are mixed; they always have been,” Juantorena replies.

U.S. people OK

He commented that he likes Los Angeles and the people of the United States. He says: “Lucky American people are different than the United States government. The American people fight against the U.S. invasion of Cuba at Playa Giron [Bay of Pigs], against the Chinese invasion of Vietnam and the Vietnamese War of the U.S. government.”

“Our people have similar international points of view, but the governments are different.”

Concluding, he felt regret when his running career is over, Juantorena vows, “But when I can no longer compete, some exercise and fight against the pot belly.”
Workers resist Bolivian military coup

By Ernest Haresch

Within hours of the military coup in Bolivia on July 17, the workers' movement began to mobilize massively to resist the takeover.

Bolivian Workers Federation (COB), which had been in the forefront of the resistance to previous coups, immediately declared an all-out general strike. The National Committee in Defense of Democracy, in which the COB is a central participant, issued a call for an indefinite general strike.

It declared a "state of emergency and martial law" and called on the Bolivian people to "fight to the bitter end" to resist the coup. Radio stations under the control of the miners' union broadcast appeals for unity and opposition to the coup. The miners, who had been the focal point of the resistance to previous coups, were again in the vanguard to reiterate the challenge and demand the government's resignation.

The new military junta dispatched troops and tanks to the mining region of Potosi to try to crush resistance.

The Democratic Socialism Radio Network, which includes five union-controlled radio stations, reported that workers had clashed with troops in the tin and zinc mining region of San Juan, resulting in "one confirmed casualty." "A lot of working-class blood has been shed," said one union leader.

Silas Zuazo, who received the largest number of votes for president of the General Election last June, went underground following the coup and called for support to the COB-organized general strike.

Workers resist Bolivian military coup

workers and students build barricades in La Paz streets.

Int'l unions come to defense of kidnapped Guatemala unionists

The International Union of Food & Allied Workers (IUF) and the AFL-CIO issued a joint statement issued in Geneva, has sharply criticized the kidnapping of two Guatemalan trade unionists June 21.

The IUF said the Guatemalan government "wilfully and criminally" has not taken any serious steps against those responsible for the kidnapping. It called for a "resolute, widespread and moral condemnation" of the government's actions.

The AFL-CIO also condemned the government's "clearly illegal" actions.

The Guatemalan union leaders were kidnapped on their way to the home of the secretary general of the country's largest union, the AFACTCO.

The CNT headquarters is located in a crowded area of Guatemala City. The area was cordoned off at the time of the kidnapping.

The IUF denounced the attack as a "clear and deliberate violation of workers' rights." It called for an "immediate and unconditional release of the two kidnapped union leaders.

"We demand the immediate release of our colleagues by the Guatemalan authorities," the CNT said. "We call on all workers to show solidarity with our comrades and with the struggle of all workers against the regime of repression and violence in Guatemala.

"We call on the workers of the world to join forces in defense of our comrades and in defense of democracy and peace in Guatemala."

"It is not possible that while there are peasants who have to dig among rocks to plant their crops, latifundistas can live in luxury on the backs of the poor; while they are not putting to any use. For this reason of elemental justice these blood sacrifices and the struggle of the peasants are not in vain.

"We demand that the workers and students of the world join in the struggle for the defense of labor rights and democratic freedoms in Latin America."

"We demand the release of our comrades and the end of the repression in Guatemala. The CNT and all workers organizations are united in this struggle.

"We call on all workers to show solidarity with our comrades and with the struggle of all workers against the regime of repression and violence in Guatemala."
By Judy White

SAND DIEGO—"This rally is historic because it launches the Socialist Workers campaign against a Democrat who is an open Ku Klux Klan member," said Mark Friedman, SWP candidate for Congress in the Forty-third District, at a July 19 rally of his campaign supporters.

"Ever since the Ku Klux Klan was formed in 1865 and became the armed wing of the Democratic party, it has been pressing to undo the legacy of antiwar feeling among the working people and their families.

"Last November, the KKK in Greensboro, North Carolina, gunned down five racist demonstrators in cold blood.

"On March 25, in Oceanside [Califor­nia], the Democratic opponent in this congressional race, Thomas Metzger, led an armed assault on peaceful demonstrators.

"Ten days ago, Doward Howard, a Black communications worker in River­side, was arrested on a phone policy by racists believed to be the KKK. This took place just prior to a Klan rally at the local city hall.

"Prolonged applause interrupted President Carter's speech last week when the KKK has carried this violence and Metzger and the others should be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law.

"The labor movement has a lot at stake, or at least it seems to Burgener pointed out. "We know that Republican incumbent Burgener voted against the common labor law which was a landmark for reform in Congress. We know he supported increased military spending, which we believe has been forcing Burgener to crush the Farm Workers union.

"Supporters have poured into San Diego from Los Angeles, California, Black City Councilman Mel Mason.

"They came down to help out after a prominent coverage, with a photo showing a campaigning supporter signing up a voter while the Klan picketer asked, "Why do you sign!! Socialist Workers Party, Mel Mason."

"There has been no furtheraction.

"On the eve of Reagan's acceptance speech? Why did he speak of concern for the poor, for working people, for Blacks, for women? Why is he not really a Democrat? But if he is not really a Democrat, he's the most bellflowered black face Democrat that I've ever seen," said Mark Friedman, SWP candidate for the Forty-third Congressional District.

"He's not really a Democrat, he's the most bellflowered black face Democrat that I've ever seen."

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"They arrived with lots of prominent coverage, with a photo showing a campaigning supporter signing up a voter while the Klan picketer asked, "Why do you sign!! Socialist Workers Party, Mel Mason."

"There has been no further action.

"On the eve of Reagan's acceptance speech, he conveniently said, "Oh, I'm a Socialist Worker."

"I hope he's not really a real Socialist."

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"Mason pledged his "total and absolute support to Mark Friedman in the congressional race."

"Other shared his sentiment, including two Black youths who were attending the SWP event."

"The following day they attended the weekly meeting of the Young Socialist Alliance where plans were mapped out for the next stage of the Friedman campaign."

Reagan is trying to capitalize on this mood by speaking of the "progres­sive momentum" that has befaced the country, by offering a "crusade" to turn things around, and by baiting his line with a "massive massive demagogy."

"But working people are not looking for the anti­labor, pro-wars policies that Reagan offers. No more than they were during the campaign."
Steel mill shutdown shakes Birmingham

By Nelson Blackstock

BIRMINGHAM—With the end of the last shift on Saturday, June 28, some 3,000 employees at U.S. Steel's Fairfield Works found themselves out of a job. It brought to 30,000 the total laid off at Fairfield during the past year. In the last week of June they shut down the last two furnaces. It is one of the few times no furnaces are operating since U.S. Steel took over the operation just after the turn of the century.

Steel is the bedrock on which Birmingham grew. The U.S. Steel Corporation dominates the steel industry here.

The layoffs have shaken the city. When all the figures are in, unemployment will almost certainly be at a ten-year high.

The news media are filled with stories on the layoffs. Their cause is pinned on foreign imports, excessive government regulation (including rules curtailing pollution), high taxes on the industry, and an unproductive work force.

The morning the layoffs hit, the Birmingham Post-Herald featured a story purportedly telling how workers at Fairfield were responding.

The centerpiece of the article was the reaction of two retirees (whether they were foremen was unclear) found looking to be in his mid-forties, said he thought the layoffs were “political,” a term we were to hear often.

“Nobody was doing much to look out for the workers,” he said, “to keep the company in line.”

When asked, he said he thought foreign steel was a factor. “But then I drive a Datsun. It’s a better car. If they wouldn’t need so much control, they might leave the country.”

Out of control

As we talked, they greeted a passing U.S. Steel worker, who was out on the railroad. He is twenty-six years old and has worked at the plant for eight years. Before that he played football at Auburn for a year. But he got married, needed more money, and went to work. He said most of his family has worked at the mill at one time or another. “I’m not sure what I’m going to do now,” he said. “I might go back to college or I might leave the city.”

What’s behind the layoffs?

“It’s bigger than me. It’s bigger than the local. The decision wasn’t made here. Nobody here can find out anything. Nobody here has any control.

“I think there’s a lot more to this than we know about. I don’t know if I believe that there’s no steel orders. Foreign steel’s a big problem, but I drive a Toyota.”

A fifty-nine-year-old woman sat in the cab of a pickup truck, reading a book. Her husband had worked at Fairfield for thirty-three years. “He’s eligible to retire soon,” she said.

She cited imports and “bad workmanship” as reasons for the layoffs. “Nine out of ten workers here drive foreign cars,” she said. “American cars are not as good, but they ought to drive them anyway.”

Multi-nationals

Next we talked to a forty-year-old Black man who had worked in the iron ore area, processing the ore before it had been here seven years.

“I believe we’ll be called back after the election,” he said. “I don’t think there’s any reason for the layoffs. It’s big business trying to put pressure on the government to do what they want. They might have needed to lay off some, but they didn’t need to close down all these steel mills.”

As for foreign imports, “with these multi-nationals you have companies, even over here who own the companies over there. They’re hollering like they’re hurt, but it’s a trick.”

“Big business has more control in government than the people,” he said.

“We’re supposed to have one man one vote. But a corporation can buy million-dollar campaigns.”

“Proctor and Gamble can go on TV and push propaganda and get our votes and get our opinions.”

When asked about the proposal to nationalize closed facilities like Fairfield, he said the government has too much control already. He would prefer a system where the gobierno owned the companies and get part of the profit.

“Then way they would work harder to try to make more,” he said, “rather than trying to go out of work.”

A crane operator in his mid-twenties said he was looking forward to the layoffs. He was walking toward the car with his son, about five. It is not totally shut down now, so he’ll be working alternate weeks through the summer. But if orders don’t pick up then, he expects a longer-term layoff.

“The wages might have something to do with the layoffs,” he said. “If the cost of living wasn’t so high, we wouldn’t need so much.”

High wages might have something to do with the layoffs,” he said. “If the cost of living wasn’t so high, we wouldn’t need so much.”

Only interested in profit

What about the union? Could they have done more to block the layoffs?

“We’ve got a good union. If we didn’t have the union we wouldn’t have SUB, or TRA [Trade Readjustment Allowance], or the good wages we get that allow you to put some back for a rainy day. We’ve got good health benefits.”

Grievance committee with the union.

“The companies are only interested in one thing. Making a profit.

“What about the needs of society as a whole? They only have obligations to individuals, is the way they see it. Not societal obligations.”

The last person we talked to was a twenty-seven-year-old Vietnam veteran. He is Black. A scalawag, he’s worked at U.S. Steel for six years.

What caused the layoffs?

“It might be because it’s an election year. Could be politics.”

“Most people emerged from those discussions is a picture quite different from that presented by the Post-Herald.”

While the workers don’t have the answers, they have some of the right questions. By and large, they’re not buying the line pushed day in and day out by U.S. Steel and their mouthpieces. Most didn’t even mention the matter of foreign imports until we asked about it.

Most have a healthy class-based suspicion about the whole thing. They know they’re being lied to, that they’re not getting the whole story.

Oliver: ‘Nationalize U.S. Steel’

Mohammed Oliver, Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. Senate from Alabama, called the layoffs at U.S. Steel Fairfield Works “a severe blow to the living standard of Alabama workers.”

“A lot of laid-off steelworker myself,” Oliver said. “I know the hardship and misery caused by trying to eke out an existence on meager unemployment benefits. And like many other steelworkers I think we’re being lied to by the steel bosses.”

The first thing working people need to do, Oliver said, is find out the truth about U.S. Steel’s state of health. “All the company’s books should be opened to public scrutiny. If U.S. Steel is telling the truth and can’t be run for profit, the company should be nationalized.”

“We need the steel,” Oliver pointed out. “The production of such an essential commodity should be taken out of private hands. The industry should be nationalized and managed by a publicly elected board.”

The socialist candidate said that laid-off workers should receive unemployment benefits at union wage scales for the entire time they’re out of work.

“But there’s no rational reason for us to be out of work in the first place. If the workweek were cut to thirty hours with no reduction in takehome pay, millions of new jobs would be created. We should take the billions being spent on the war budget and use that money for public works programs to build desperately needed housing, schools, hospitals, and roads and transit.

“There is, however, no way the parties of big business, the Demo­crats and Republicans, will implement such a program,” Oliver said.

“The power of the union movement should be used to run working people for office on a program that places human needs before profits. We need a labor party.”
In Review


Dr. Ernesto "Che" Guevara was a young and daring Argentinean rebel in 1955. It was then he went to Mexico, met the exiled Cuban revolutionary Fidel Castro, and joined the ranks of the July 26 Movement.

In 1956, Che crossed over to Cuba on a small boat,along with Fidel and his handpicked eighty-two guerilla fighters. In Cuba, he fought in the Sierra Maestra mountains for two years, serving as first as doctor and becoming a top guerilla leader.

In 1959 Fidel's Rebel Army was victorious,ousting the imperialism and Batista dictatorship. Along with Fidel, Che became a trusted and respected co-leader of the revolutionary government.

From 1959 to 1965 he served as President of the Cuban national bank and as minister of industry. In 1965, Che left his Cuban home, his family, the people he loved, and joined the freedom fighters first in Africa and then in Bolivia. There, in October 1967, he was killed at the hands of the imperialist force.

Che rose to international prominence for his uncompromising dedication as a revolutionary fighter. Che's words and actions remain an inspiring example for revolutionaries the world over.

Che had no regret whatsoever for fighting and sacrificing for the cause of the oppressed. In his last public statement he said, "Wherever death may surprise us, let it be welcome if our battle cry has reached even one receptive ear, and another hand reaches out to take up our arms."

The newly reprinted volume Che Guevara Speaks is a collection of speeches, articles, interviews, and letters spanning an eight-year period, from the time he entered the Rebel Army seized power in 1959 until Che's final statement, made public in spring 1967.

It's an inspiring anthology, which provides a truthful picture of how the Cuban revolution met its tests, sometimes making mistakes, in the face of continual U.S. threats and attacks.

New revolutionary leadership

In his introduction, Joseph Hansen, a central leader of the Socialist Workers Party until his death in 1979, explains the importance of this collection. Hansen's essay is a tribute to Che and offers some valuable observations on the nature and significance of Cuba's revolutionary leadership team. He writes:

"Something bigger even than Che is involved—the Cuban Revolution and its contribution toward solving the most crucial single problem facing humanity: the construction of a leadership capable of guiding the way out of an economic order reeking in every pore with corruption, filth and blood."

Che, in his own account of his life, said, "They should be the people asking for them for use against the common enemy without any charge at all, and in quantities determined by the need and their availability. . . ."

"To the ominous attacks by American imperialism against Vietnam and the Congo, the answer should be the supplying of all the defense equipment they need, and to offer them our full solidarity without any conditions whatsoever."

"Writers will find in this speech the principles that are guiding Cuba's foreign policy today in the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, Afro-Asian Solidarity, Che explained. For the workers states to trade with underdeveloped countries at world market prices, he said, would be to act as "accomplices of imperialist exploitation." They should buy the products of developing countries above capitalist market prices, as the Soviet Union does with Cuban sugar.

They should provide long-term credit on favorable terms to underdeveloped countries; help foster the growth of basic industries; provide technical and educational assistance. The obligations of the workers states are not only economic, Che continued."

"Arms cannot be regarded as merchandise in our world. They should be the people asking for them for use against the common enemy without any charge at all, and in quantities determined by the need and their availability. . . ."

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Internationalist

Che was an internationalist. An Argentinean, he fought in Cuba, and in his final days, as he fought to extend the revolution in Bolivia, appealed for solidarity and aid to Vietnam.

He spoke of the imminent need to extend the revolution being fought in that Asian country. "How clear and bright would the future appear if two, three, many Vietnams, flowered on the face of the globe."

Che never wavered in his commitment. He sacrificed all for the cause of international socialism.

And more than that, he never lost his great love for humanity. "The true revolutionary," he said, "is guided by a great feeling of compassion, the desire to think of a genuine revolutionary lacking this quality.

Leaving for Bolivia, in his final letter to Fidel, he wrote: "The time has come for us to part. I want it known that I do it with mixed feelings of joy and sorrow; I leave here among you defending this outpost—the "first free territory of the Americas." The U.S. government imposed an economic blockade on Cuba. Vitally needed food, equipment, and medicine were cut off. How could Cuba survive and grow in the face of this hardship?

The only way Cuba could do it, Che firmly believed, was by relying on the revolutionary will of the people. The revolution's tasks and goals had to be taken to the masses, to be discussed and decided collectively.

That's why, as the country prepared to launch a national economic plan in 1961, Che appeared on TV, with charts and graphs. He explained to the Cuban people what the tasks were and what their role would be in achieving the plan.

"We must be realistic, Che said, "It is not materially possible to satisfy in five years' time all the needs of people who have hungered for centuries for even a crust of bread."

He pointed to an error "caused by enthusiasm, the euphoria of victory," but nonetheless an error. The Sugar Federation projected a goal of six million tons of sugar by May 1, 1961. The goal was not met.

If the plan had been drawn up with mass participation, it would have been automatically thrown out and that would have spared us this painful reality: that the revolution, the workers, who are the revolution's most important spokesmen, have said things which have not been done, have given the idea that there is a certain superficiality in the government's declarations.

"War to the death

U.S. imperialism, with its propaganda, its lies, its threats and outright military attacks, tried to crush the Cuban revolution. Che and the other leaders understood this and prepared the tools, the men, and the time to meet it head on. Che told the sugar workers in Santa Clara on March 28, 1961, just twenty days before the Bay of Pigs invasion.

"We are in a war . . . a war where there is no front line, no continuous bombardment, but where the two adversaries—this tiny champion of the Caribbean and the immense imperialist hyena—are face to face and aware that one of them is going to end up dead in the fight."
**Women in Revolt**

While the three filed complaints with the Human Rights Commission, the women's fourth week at the plant here last November. Evidence to that effect are sister party of the FBI crimes in recent years there have been the same kind of revelations about the Pacific. He bought it for half a million and present value is about $160,000. But it's listed as an "agricultural preserver," assessed at $20,000, with a tax last year of $900.

Got the majority outnumbered—there's a reason for the crime in Los Angeles County, says attorney Peter Pitchess. "The minorities are creating problems."

Quebec: The finding of the Quebec Human Rights Commission concluded that the visit by the RCMP agent played a decisive role in the company's decision to fire the women.

This report refutes Pratt's original claim that the three were laid off due to a surplus of personnel. It shows that the week's exposures of FBI crimes is an example of the same kind of revelations that have been made in recent years there. Evidence to that effect are sister party of the FBI crimes in recent years there have been the same kind of revelations.

The Human Rights Commission concluded that the visit by the RCMP agent played a decisive role in the company's decision to fire the women.

The report also proves that there was no complaint from Pratt management about the quality of their work. One of the women had been promoted, in fact, and the progress reports by foremen on the other two praised them highly.

The finding of the Quebec Human Rights Commission is that Pratt and Whitney is guilty of political discrimination. The company is called on to rehime them and play close to $30,000 in back wages and damages.

The ruling by the Quebec Human Rights Commission does not have the force of law. If Pratt continues to refuse to comply with the recommendation, the case could go to court.

The revelation of RCMP involvement represents a breakthrough in this case. It raises important questions about police involvement in other attacks against the labor movement.

The Committee to Defend the Pratts has already won an important labor backing. A May 24 public meeting on the case held in Montreal head speakers including Ginette Bousire, a representa­tive of the Montreal Labor Council of the Quebec Federation of Labor; Grant Hargrave, a member of United Auto Workers Local 510 at Pratt; Robert Bouchard, a member of the Communications Workers of Canada; and well-known feminist and civil rights fighter Simone Chartrand.

Support and contributions are needed for this important defense of civil liberties and women's rights. A victory against Pratt and Whitney, which is an American company, will set an example for the labor movement in both Canada and the United States. It will be a blow against RCMP and FBI dirty tricks.

The Defense Committee for the Pratt and Whitney Women can be contacted at 4257 Chalmers St, Montreal, Quebec. Phone (514) 521-2791 or 522-2989.

**New York**

**What's Going On**

**Women in Revolt**

Quebec: Mounties vs. women's job rights

The following is a guest column by Katie Curtin.

MONTREAL—The Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) played a big role in the firing of three women at the Pratt and Whitney Aircraft plant here last November. Evidence to that effect was revealed recently by the Quebec Human Rights Commission.

The three women, Suzanne Chabot, Katy Libby, and Wendy Stevenson, are members of the Revolutionary Workers League (RWL, Canadian sister party of the U.S. Socialist Workers Party). They were fired last November, by the Human Rights Commission claiming political and sexual discrimination. They had been fired just days before the end of their probationary period.

The commission report reveals that at the beginning of the women's fourth week at Pratt, the RCMP stood guard at the plant while high level company officials. The vice president of personnel and the director of industrial relations were asked to keep a close watch on them. The surveillance was continued by labor relations counselors without the knowledge of the foremen.

The Human Rights Commission concluded that the visits by the RCMP agent played a decisive role in the company's decision to fire the women.

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The commission report reveals that at the beginning of the women's fourth week at Pratt, the RCMP stood guard at the plant while high level company officials. The vice president of personnel and the director of industrial relations were asked to keep a close watch on them. The surveillance was continued by labor relations counselors without the knowledge of the foremen.

The Human Rights Commission concluded that the visits by the RCMP agent played a decisive role in the company's decision to fire the women.

This report refutes Pratt's original claim that the three were laid off due to a surplus of personnel. It shows that the week's exposures of FBI crimes is an example of the same kind of revelations that have been made in recent years there. Evidence to that effect are sister party of the FBI crimes in recent years there have been the same kind of revelations.

The Human Rights Commission concluded that the visit by the RCMP agent played a decisive role in the company's decision to fire the women.

The report also proves that there was no complaint from Pratt management about the quality of their work. One of the women had been promoted, in fact, and the progress reports by foremen on the other two praised them highly.

The finding of the Quebec Human Rights Commission is that Pratt and Whitney is guilty of political discrimination. The company is called on to rehime them and play close to $30,000 in back wages and damages.

The ruling by the Quebec Human Rights Commission does not have the force of law. If Pratt continues to refuse to comply with the recommendation, the case could go to court.

The revelation of RCMP involvement represents a breakthrough in this case. It raises important questions about police involvement in other attacks against the labor movement.

The Committee to Defend the Pratts has already won an important labor backing. A May 24 public meeting on the case held in Montreal heard speakers including Ginette Bousire, a representa­tive of the Montreal Labor Council of the Quebec Federation of Labor; Grant Hargrave, a member of United Auto Workers Local 510 at Pratt; Robert Bouchard, a member of the Communications Workers of Canada; and well-known feminist and civil rights fighter Simone Chartrand.

Support and contributions are needed for this important defense of civil liberties and women's rights. A victory against Pratt and Whitney, which is an American company, will set an example for the labor movement in both Canada and the United States. It will be a blow against RCMP and FBI dirty tricks.

The Defense Committee for the Pratt and Whitney Women can be contacted at 4257 Chalmers St, Montreal, Quebec. Phone (514) 521-2791 or 522-2989.

**Women in Revolt**

Quebec: Mounties vs. women's job rights

The following is a guest column by Katie Curtin.

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Our Revolutionary Heritage

The right to revolution

July 26 is a historic date of the Cuban revolution. It is the day in 1953, a determined group of young revolutionaries led by Fidel Castro stormed the Moncada military barracks in Santiago de Cuba. They aimed to take the garrison, win arms, capture the local police, and summon the people to rise against the hated Batista dictatorship. The attack failed, seven were killed, and seventy were wounded. Many, including Fidel, were arrested and tried.

The battle was a defeat. But they did win the war.

Jailed, released, deported, they returned from Mexico at the end of 1956 and, with a tiny band, launched a guerrilla war. They won broad worker and peasant support and two years later the July 26 Movement took power.

Their revolutionary program had been outlined, in full, in his opening address to the court October 16, 1953, when he was tried and convicted for his role at Moncada. The following is the closing of that momentous speech, entitled History Will Absolve Me.

...How was the Prosecutor to justify Batista's right to power, when he obtained it against the will of the people, violating by treason and by force the laws of the Republic? How was he to qualify as legitimate a regime of blood, oppression, and ignorance? How was he to call a government revolutionary, when it was composed of the most reactionary men, ideas, and methods of our public life? By what right can he send to jail citizens who came to give them arms and their lives for the honor of their country? That would be a monstrous thing in the eyes of the nation and in the face of principles of true justice.

But we have one more reason on our side, a reason stronger than all the others: We are Cubans, and to be a Cuban implies a duty; not to fulfill this duty is to commit a crime, to commit treason. We are proud of the history of our country. We learned it in school; as we grew up, we heard people speak of liberty, justice, and equality. In life we were taught to look up to the deeds of our heroes and martyrs. The names Céspedes, Agramonte, Maceo, Gómez and Martí were the first ones to be engraved in our minds. We were told that the titans Maceo had said that you do not beg for freedom, but you win it with the edge of the sword.

"When there are many men without honor, there are always others who have in their souls the sublime idea of sacrifice. These are the one who rebel with terrible force against those who rob the people of their right to be free, which is the same as robbing men of their honor. In those men there are thousands of men, a whole nation, human dignity itself."

I conclude my defense, but I shall not end it as all lawyers for the defense do, asking for acquittal of the defendant. I cannot ask for acquittal when my companions are already suffering in the ignorance of the prison. There are the one who rebel with terrible force against those who rob the people of their right to be free, which is the same as robbing men of their honor. In those men there are thousands of men, a whole nation, human dignity itself.

"To you, Your Honors, my sincere gratitude for having allowed me to express myself freely, without base coercion. I feel bound to rancor toward you, I recognize, in some aspects you have been humane, and I know that the presiding judge of this court has the irremediable back­ground that he is, cannot disguise his repugnance for the reigning state of things which forces him to dictate an unjust verdict."

"There still remains for the court a graver problem—I live. I am referred to the seventy cases of murder which should have been more aptly called the greatest massacre we have ever known of young rebels in the aftermath of Moncada."

The guilty ones are still at large carrying their weapons, and that is a perennial ignominy? Here is the full stain that will besmirch judicial honor, the dignity of the state.

"I know that the presiding judge of this court, in his own mind, has been humane, and that you have been humane, and that you have been humane, and that you have been humane."

"I am separated from the regular GU's, in manage­ment lingo, Absentee Replacement General Utility. Contrary to John's state­ments, we are specifically supposed to help people out of the hold of the employer, to answer emergency relief calls and get stock as well as teach new employees operations and a lot of other things."

"Some of these agree, others sneer at the idea of assistant foreman' or one of many foremen, as it is to say, or correct workers who are doing jobs incorrectly."

"There is an echo all the anti-worker, anti-unionism, anti-import statements the management feeds us and the rest are like mine, wonderful, wonderful."

"The battle is not just the struggle of the new Escort and the success of the Escort and the development of the country and since we (the Quality Up­grade) are responsible for quality, we might as well all do it together too."

"So, whether I like it or not, when one GU still spoke after such an obvious attempt—at a get together, he was verbally abused for 15 minutes, told he could forget about any other transfers or promotions, and we all get the message—volunteer, or life around here will be very unpleasant. Even bick­ering on other jobs and getting along didn't work as a back door out of the pro­gram since, come next upgrade conference, you'd find yourself an upgrade again."

So, whether I like it or not, I'm an upgrade. This does not mean I have to accept my ideals and become a company stooge. I don't have to accept the same kind of anti-unionism and anti-solidarity and I hope John doesn't create a division between me and my co-workers on the line and his brothers and sisters who are already participating in the Quality Upgrade Program.
A resource
Enclosed is a contribution I was unable to give a few months ago when the "Hands Off Iran" emblem was printed. I am now able to do so, due to a recent increase in our income. Although I do not agree with all of the views expressed by the Militant, I find I use your paper as a resource more and more.

E.F.

San Francisco

More 'Kramer'

In the review of Kramer vs. Kramer in the July 25 issue of the Militant, Suzanne Haig states that the film "is a soberly constructed argument for those opposed to women's rights." To the small extent that this movie's message relates to women's rights issues, it is wrong to claim that its point of view is negative.

In several areas it contains themes with which supporters of women's liberation can identify positively. The traditional role of the father becomes the responsibility of the mother. There is no hint that the mother is a candidate for a man to perform these functions so long considered fit only for a man.

The emptiness of a life exclusively oriented to housework and parenthood and the reasons for the lack of fulfillment that women who are only in lower roles often feel is convincingly portrayed. These aspects of the movie have been condemnatory of the feminist content. On the contrary, it is in part the impact of the feminist movement and the desire for a more personal and meaningful distribution of a work with such messages possible.

But that is not the main point. The main message of this film deals with the social difficulty surrounding childish custody. This is not necessarily entirely an issue defined basically on a pro- and anti-women's rights basis. On this issue the film is an intelligent, leftist and movement statement.

The review does not approach the movie from this point of view. It completely neglects the issue of child custody. It is this issue that people are thinking about after they see this movie. The review is a distortion of the film. But it is more irrelevant than it is wrong.

Pat Cleveland

Corona, New York

Correction

In the July 25 issue of the 'Milliant', a vote total was inadvertently omitted from the articles "Beware LAV, W.W. vote your minds at Ala. GM plant" (page 7) and "Beware LAV, W.W. vote your minds at the recent union recognition election at the Decatur, Ala., GM plant" (page 11), causing an error in the total count in the union recognition election at the Decatur, Ala., GM plant. The total was 714 opposed, 561 in favor.

The letters column is an open forum for all comrades. It is a place to present ideas, viewpoints on subjects of general interest to our readers. Please be brief. Where necessary they will be abridged. Please indicate if you do not want that your initials be used rather than your full name.

If You Like This Book, Look Up Us!
Behind new Miami rebellion

'Tell the truth about poverty & brutality'

By Jerry Hunnicutt and Carmen Maymi

MIAMI—“Liberty City Unrest Simmering; Violence Is Laid to ‘Hoodlums,’” was the headline on the July 17 Miami Herald.

Here and around the country, the news media and public officials have done their best to cover up the truth about the latest rebellion in Miami’s Black community.

While racist headlines portray Black youth as less than human, in Liberty City the facts are not hard to find.

Facts about unemployment, broken promises, and cop brutality—with Black youth the victims, not the aggressors.

What really started the July 15 rebellion never did get publicized. The issue was jobs.

Several major corporations and local businesses sponsored a “jobs fair” on July 15. It was publicly advertised and more than 600 Black youth showed up looking for work.

It turned out the companies were looking for a few highly skilled people. Few, if any, were hired. The “jobs fair” ended in an angry shouting match.

The young men and women said they’d been lied to again.

At 3:30 that afternoon, cops ran into the James E. Scott housing project, chasing five young Blacks accused of robbery. The cops ran through the gloomy, dilapidated project and grabbed one young man.

Bystanders shouted that the cops had the wrong person, but they proceeded to handcuff and beat him anyway.

Some 200 people gathered in an angry demonstration. They chased the cops out. One cop got in the way of a bullet, and some were hit by rocks and bottles.

The cops now report that the victim of the alleged robbery attempt has disappeared.

The cops now report that the victim of the alleged robbery attempt has disappeared.

If they don’t want us to rebel, they shouldn’t come into our neighborhood pointing a gun at us and taking us into dark places and leaving us dead,” say Liberty City Blacks.

A young Black woman told us to make sure and tell the truth about what’s happening in Liberty City.

Tell them to stop lying and start talking about the poverty, the police brutality that people in this community are up against. The cops just want to bust Black youth, force them into the military, and get rid of us fighting their wars.

Another angry resident said, “These young Blacks aren’t going to take what we had to take. If they don’t want us to rebel, they shouldn’t come into our neighborhood pointing a gun at us and taking us into dark places and leaving us dead.

“These cops run around here pointing rifles out of the windows of their cars, and they talk about young Blacks being violent. Well, this violence isn’t new. It’s been here for years.

“Everybody’s all upset because Blacks are kicking back now, starting to fight back. They used to beat us in the dark. Now they have to beat us in the open.”

Black workers walk out

MIAMI—At the major Western Electric plant here, the majority of Black day shift workers walked off the job July 18 to protest the firing of a young Black woman.

A special meeting of the Communications Workers of America local was called the same day to discuss the firing.

One Black worker in the plant commented, “What’s happening in this city is connected to what’s happening at this plant. We don’t want to see another Black woman out of work, out on the streets.”

The CWA local here, together with almost 600,000 other telephone workers nationally, is gearing up for a possible strike against the powerful AT&T system when the contract expires in mid-August.

The union consciousness and militancy of workers in this plant can’t help but strengthen the union’s position in the battles to come.